

### ***Local Navy Veteran Becomes National Leader of the 1.2 Million Member Organization***

Toms River, NJ – Congressman John Adler, the only N.J. member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, today applauded Toms River veteran Mary J. Bencivenga for her election to the position of 2nd Junior Vice Commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). The 1.2 million member DAV elected Ms. Bencivenga 2nd Junior Vice Commander at the organization's 89th National Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Congratulations to Mary J. Bencivenga for earning a national leadership role with the Disabled American Veterans," Congressman John Adler said. "Ms. Bencivenga selflessly served in the military, and continues her service by helping the veterans' community. I look forward to working with Ms. Bencivenga to ensure our nation's heroes receive every opportunity a grateful nation can offer."

Mary J. Bencivenga enlisted in the Navy in 1981, and completed air traffic control training at Naval Air Technical Training Center in Millington, Tennessee. As a Navy Air Traffic Controller, Ms. Bencivenga was assigned to the Naval Technical Training Center Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida, and later to the Naval Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii. In 1987, she fell from a control tower during a readiness alert. Ten days later, she was in a military plane which crashed into the Pacific Ocean. She was honorably discharged from service in 1987.

Ms. Bencivenga is a life member of DAV Chapter 24 in Toms River. She has held numerous Chapter and Department DAV offices, including Department Commander and Assistant Adjutant of the Department of New Jersey, National 4th and 3rd Junior Vice Commander, and National Convention Credential Committee Chair, among other honors. In 2006, she was honored by the DAV Department of New Jersey as the Veteran of the Year.

Following her military service, Ms. Bencivenga completed a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry, Cum Laude, and a Masters of Education degree from Georgian Court College. She is presently employed as a professional college and high school tutor (specializing in science and math) for students with disabilities. Ms. Bencivenga and her spouse, Brandon, reside in Toms River, NJ. They are the parents of two children: a son, Paul, and daughter, Sarah.